

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ROK FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. WE PROPOSE TO USE THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE UNLESS
YOU SEE OBJECTIONS.

QUESTION: WAS THE US CONSULTED ON THE ROK INITIATIVE?

ANSWER: YES.

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QUESTION: WHAT ROLE DID THE US PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENTS?

ANSWER: USG WAS ASKED FOR ITS VIEWS BUT THE STATEMENT REPRESENTS ENTIRELY THE POLICY INITIATIVE AND DECISIONS OF THE ROKG.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STATEMENT FOR THE DEBATE ON THE KOREAN ITEM IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

ANSWER: PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. IF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNGA WANT TO DEBATE THE KOREAN QUESTION, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEBATE WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. WE WILL BE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE ROK AND OTHERS ON THIS QUESTION.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT FOR THE UN PRESENCE IN KOREA -- UNCURK AND THE UNC?

ANSWER: AS REGARDS UNCURK, WE SUPPORT THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY THE ROK IN ITS PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING PRESIDENT PARK'S SPEECH. AS TO THE UNC, THIS ORGANIZATION INVOLVES QUESTIONS OF THE BASIC SECURITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA. PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, AND WE WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT ALSO TO NOTE THAT (A) THE ROKG IS EARNESTLY ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A SITUATION OF LASTING PEACE IN THE PENINSULA WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A FURTHER STEP-BY-STEP DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH; (B) THE USG BELIEVES THE ROK INITIATIVE IS A SIGNIFICANT MOVE FORWARD AND INTENDS TO SUPPORT THE ROK AS IT SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT IT.

QUESTION: IS THE USG PREPARED TO SEE BOTH KOREAS IN THE UN?

ANSWER: PRESIDENT PARK HAS SUGGESTED THE TERMS UNDER WHICH HE WOULD CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY. WE REGARD THESE TERMS AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD AND ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS ASPECT OF HIS INITIATIVE AS WE ARE THE OTHERS.

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QUESTION: IN LIGHT OF THE ROK INITIATIVE DOES THE US INTEND TO KEEP ITS FORCES IN THE ROK?

ANSWER: THE US WILL STATION FORCES IN THE ROK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1954 US-ROK MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, AND WILL MAKE NO FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR PRESENT FORCE LEVELS EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL SECURITY

SITUATION ON THE PENINSULA.

QUESTION: IN LIGHT OF THE ROK INITIATIVE, WILL IT BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE ROK?

ANSWER: THE USG INTENDS TO CONTINUE THESE PROGRAMS FOR AS LONG AS THEY ARE NECESSARY.

QUESTION: HAS THE UNITED STATES ABANDONED ITS DESIRE, AS EXPRESSED IN PAST UNGA RESOLUTIONS, TO ACHIEVE KOREAN UNIFICATION THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS UNDER UN SUPERVISION?

ANSWER: WE ARE FULLY IN ACCORD WITH PRESIDENT PARK'S CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE, WHICH CAN PROVIDE A BASIS FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH AND A LASTING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA. HOW THIS INITIATIVE IS PURSUED IS LARGELY A MATTER FOR KOREANS TO DECIDE. WE OURSELVES ARE NOT COMMITTED TO ANY PARTICULAR METHOD.

QUESTION: DOES THE US INTEND TO BEGIN EXPANDING CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA OR TO EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO IT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NO PLANS TO EXPAND OFFICIAL US CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA.

QUESTION: WILL THE US OBJECT TO OTHER NATIONS' EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA?

ANSWER: THIS IS OF COURSE A MATTER FOR THEM TO DECIDE. WE WOULD AGREE WITH THE SPIRIT OF PRESIDENT PARK'S STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SUCH NATIONS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN THEIR RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA.

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2. ANY SEOUL COMMENTS REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REQUEST INFO ON LINE TAKEN BY FONMIN ON UNCURK AND THE UNC.

3. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO ROK EMBASSY THAT IT AND ROK MISSION NEW YORK HAVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXT OF PARK STATEMENT AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER DELIVERY IN SEOUL. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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